



**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
242 STATE STREET
18 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0018**

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August 1, 2000

Scott Whitney, Compliance Officer
Drinking Water Program
Division of Health Engineering
State House Station 11
Augusta, ME 04333-11

RE: Department of Human Services Request for
Consultation Regarding Transport of Bulk Water by
Northern Springs, Inc.
Docket No 2000-614

Dear Mr. Whitney:

On July 17, 2000, you requested Commission review of the application of Northern Springs, Inc. for renewal of its authorization, pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §2660-A(3), to transport water for commercial purposes. That statute requires that your office consult with the PUC and other agencies before authorizing commercial transport of water beyond the municipality in which it occurs naturally. This letter constitutes the PUC's assessment of whether Northern Springs, Inc.'s proposal to transport water from the Town of Poland would "constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare" in regard to its effect on any public water utility.

Our Staff reviewed the Northern Springs, Inc. proposal to determine whether the proposed withdrawal of water would adversely affect on the public water utilities in the area. The Auburn, Gray, and Oxford Water Districts were contacted along with the Town of Mechanic Falls Water Department. The review indicates that the proposed withdrawals should not adversely affect these water utilities' water sources or watersheds.

It is our opinion that transport of water from Northern Springs, Inc. will not constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. The public utility component of

the waiver process should be reviewed, to ensure circumstances have not changed, each time the authorization is renewed.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have questions regarding the public water utility impact of the Northern Springs, Inc. application.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

cc: Raymond Hammond
Dana Lee.
David MacDonald
Gordon Johnson
James Foster

Mechanic Falls Water Department
-Oxford Water District
-Auburn Water District
-Gray Water District